

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

#### ***In the Specification:***

Please insert the following section before the first line of the specification:

#### **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a national stage application of International Application No. PCT/FR02/03933, filed November 15, 2002, which claims priority to FR 02/00517, filed January 15, 2002, both applications of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety into the present application.

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 10, line 6, with the following paragraph:

As shown in Figure 9, the flanges 12B facilitate bonding during overmolding with the material of smaller hardness that forms the lateral walls 13, while also facilitating positioning of the parts during overmolding. The specific channel-section shape of the dorsal reinforcement 12 with its web ~~[[12B]]~~ 12A forming an extra thickness of material of increased hardness, combined with thin lateral walls 13 of smaller hardness, leads to an annular compression chamber 7 being obtained in which compression is directed mostly if not exclusively centripetally (arrow F in Figure 9), i.e. directed towards the geometrical center of the band. The chamber deforms above all via the lateral walls 13 of hardness and thickness that are small compared with the web ~~[[12B]]~~ 12A which deforms little or not at all.

#### ***In the Abstract:***

Please replace the existing abstract with the newly-submitted abstract attached herewith on a separate sheet.